



ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

PROPOSED 1986 PLAN AMENDMENTS



To The
CALIFORNIA
DESERT
PLAN

and the

EASTERN
SAN DIEGO
COUNTY MFP



U.S. Department of the Interior

Bureau of Land Management

RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA

December 1986



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

CALIFORNIA DESERT DISTRICT

1695 Spruce Street
Riverside, California 92507

1600
(CA-064)

OCT 27 1986

Dear Reader:

Last February (1986), we invited you and other interested parties to review the California Desert Plan as amended and submit any comments and recommendations for proposed amendments of the Plan. The response that we received from organizations and individuals as well as from our own staff resulted in the amendment proposals contained in this Environmental Assessment.

My thanks to those of you who sent in comments and suggestions - I hope that you will continue to help us manage your public lands.

The decision to accept or to reject these proposed amendments will be based on a number of factors including effect on the natural environment, input from the public, and recommendations of the California Desert District Advisory Council.

We are providing a 60-day period for public review of the Environmental Assessment. Please be sure to return your comments to this office no later than [redacted]. Send your comments to the following address:

California Desert District
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ATTN: Plan Amendments
1695 Spruce Street
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Sincerely,

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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

PROPOSED 1986 AMENDMENTS
 TO THE CALIFORNIA DESERT CONSERVATION AREA PLAN

Prepared by
 Department of the Interior
 Bureau of Land Management
 California Desert District

The Bureau of Land Management is conducting its 1986 review of the California Desert Plan. This Environmental Assessment considers the environmental consequences of accepting or rejecting each of the six proposed amendments which have been accepted for consideration. Amendments fall in the following categories: (1) site-specific changes in motorized vehicle access, (2) boundary adjustment of an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), (3) reduction in burro population, (4) movement of a portion of a utility corridor, and (5) reclassification of a small area in the Eastern San Diego County Planning Unit. Under the Bureau's preferred alternative, four amendments would be accepted and two would be accepted with modifications or conditions.


 ACTING DISTRICT MANAGER
 CALIFORNIA DESERT

For Further Information Contact:

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 1695 Spruce Street
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SUMMARY

PLAN AMENDMENTS

In accordance with the procedures set forth in Chapter 7 of the California Desert Plan and with 43 CFR 1600.5-5 (BLM Planning Regulations), the Bureau of Land Management, California Desert District has initiated the sixth amendment review of the plan.

Proposals were accepted during a 30-day period from February 14 to March 17, 1986. Eighteen proposals were made by the public and by the BLM staff for consideration. These amendments were screened by BLM management and the California Desert District Advisory Council to determine which ones should be considered at this time and which should be deferred, dropped, or could be handled more appropriately by an administrative action. Six proposals were recommended for consideration.

<u>Category</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
Vehicle Access	1	Change boundary of vehicle closure area in North Saline Valley.
	2	Change motorized vehicle access designation in Orocopia Mountains from "closed" to "limited".
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)	3	Modify boundary of Saline Valley ACEC as recommended in the recently prepared ACEC management plan.
Burros	4	Eliminate Kramer Herd Management Area designation and reduce burro population to zero.
Energy Production and Utility Corridors	5	Shift a portion of Utility Corridor BB, between Zzyzx and Shadow Mountain, to the north of Interstate 15.
Wilderness	6	Change two acres of the Carrizo Gorge Wilderness Study Area from Class "L" to Class "C", due to a map correction.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Impacts have been assessed for both accepting and rejecting each amendment. They are summarized in Table S-1.

TABLE S-1
CANDIDATE AMENDMENTS - SUMMARY OF IMPACTS

Amend. Number	Amendment	RESOURCES						USES				Geology - Energy - Minerals
		Soil - Air - Water	Botany	Wildlife	Horses - Burros	Cultural Resources	Native Americans	Wilderness	Visual Resources	Livestock Grazing	Recreation	
1.	North Saline Valley	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	
2.	Orocopia Mountain	-	-	-	-	X				X		
3.	Saline Valley ACEC	X	X	X	X					X		
4.	Burro Area 'J'	X	X	X	-							
5.	Utility Corridor BB			-	-						-	
6.	Carizzo Gorge WSA				X							

X = POSITIVE IMPACT - = NEGATIVE IMPACT

SELECTION OF PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

Based in part upon the amendment-specific impacts, a preferred alternative was selected, either to accept, reject, or accept an alternative version of each amendment. This choice does not represent a final decision, but simply indicates a preliminary recommendation to be presented in the draft EA for public review and comment. The cumulative impacts of this preferred alternative are presented in Table S-2 below:

TABLE S-2

SUMMARY OF CUMMULATIVE IMPACTS

Resource	Unit of Measure	No Action	Preferred Alternative	Percent Change	New Percent of Desert
<u>Multiple Use Class</u>					
C	Acres	1,655,940	1,655,942	0	13.7 (17.3)*
L	Acres	6,311,631	6,311,629	0	52.1 (48.8)
M	Acres	3,352,183	3,352,183	0	27.7 (27.5)
I	Acres	588,240	588,240	0	4.6 (4.1)
Unclassified	Acres	239,285	239,285	0	2.0 (2.6)
<u>Vehicle Access</u>					
Open	Acres	567,870	567,870	0	
Limited	Acres	9,307,670	9,331,670	+0.3	
Closed	Acres	1,982,950	1,958,950	-1.2	
Undesignated	Acres	258,580	258,580	0	
<u>ACEC's</u>					
Added	Number		0		
	Acres		2,386		
Deleted	Number		0		
	Acres		0		
Net Change	Number		0		
	Acres		+2,386		

*Percent of Area in Original Plan

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>PAGE</u>
SUMMARY.....	S-1
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	S-4
CHAPTER 1 - INTRODUCTION.....	1-1
CHAPTER 2 - AMENDMENTS AND ALTERNATIVES	
Description of Amendments.....	2-1
Summary of Impacts.....	2-4
CHAPTER 3 - AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT	
General Description.....	3-1
Supplementary Information.....	3-4
CHAPTER 4 - ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES	
Introduction.....	4-1
Specific Impacts.....	4-1
Cumulative Impacts.....	4-11
CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION.....	5-1
LIST OF PREPARERS.....	LP-1
GLOSSARY.....	G-1
REFERENCES CITED.....	RC-1
APPENDICES	
Appendix A - General Maps.....	A-1
Appendix B - Amendments not Considered.....	B-1
Appendix C - Source of Amendments Accepted for Consideration.....	C-1

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the procedures set forth in Chapter 7 of the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan (1980) and with 43 CFR 1610.5-5, the United States Department of the Interior (USDI), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), has initiated the sixth amendment review of the plan.

Proposals for amendments were accepted during a 30-day period from February 14 to March 17, 1986. Eighteen amendments were proposed by the public and by the BLM staff for consideration during the review. The proposals were then screened by BLM management and by the California Desert District Advisory Council to determine which ones met the following criteria:

- (1) Is the proposed amendment based on new data not considered when the plan was developed?
- (2) Does the information represent a change in legal or regulatory mandate?
- (3) Is the supporting detail sufficient and the problem clearly stated so that the request can be considered?
- (4) Does the information represent a formal change in State or local government or agency plans?

Six proposals met the criteria and are analyzed by this Environmental Assessment. Twelve proposals were rejected for consideration or will be handled by methods more appropriate than the amendment procedure, as described in Appendix B (Tables B-1 and B-2).

The final decision concerning whether or not to approve each amendment will be made following a 60-day public review of the EA. The decision will be based upon several factors, including the findings of this EA and the public response received during the review period. That decision is expected in April, 1987.

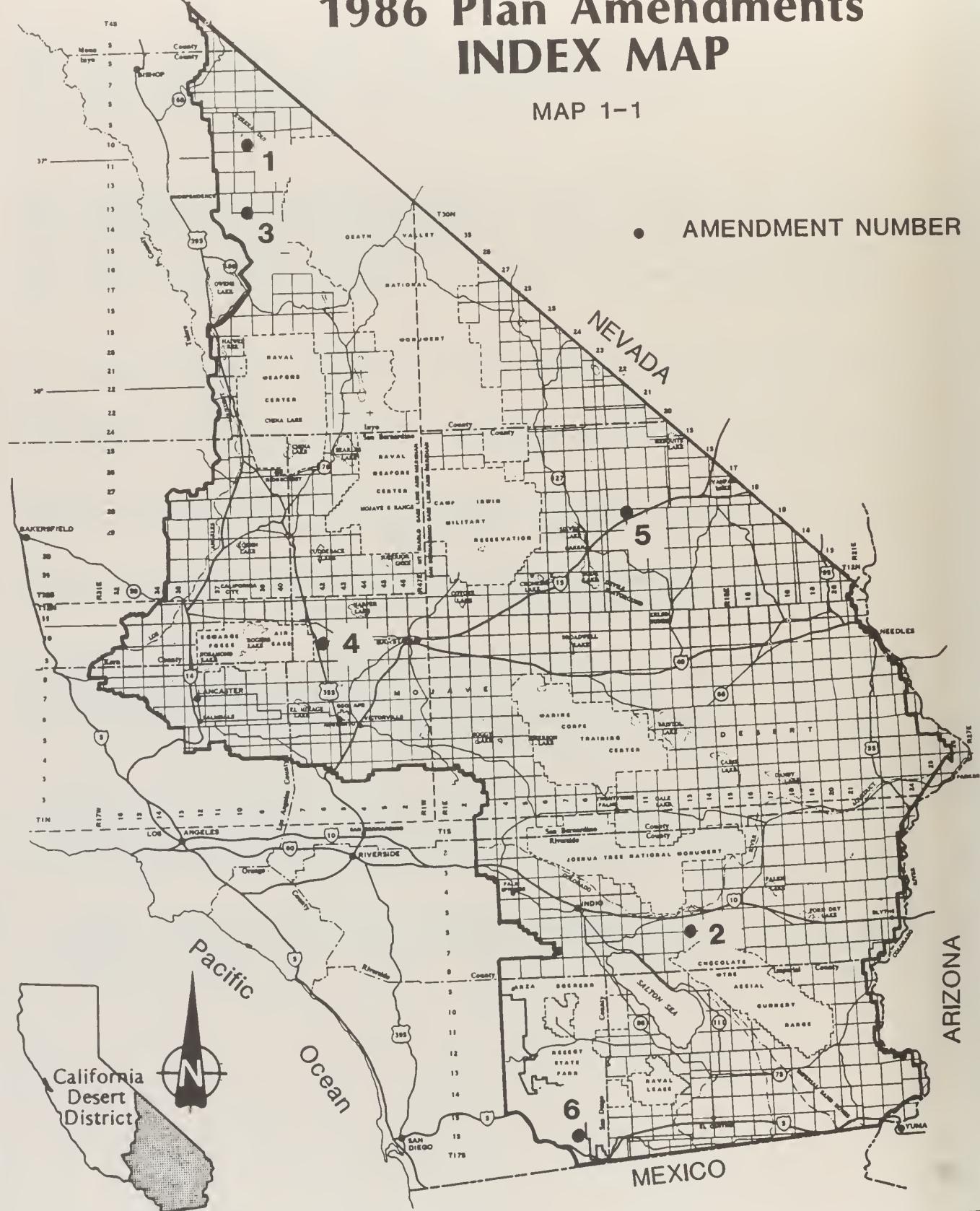
The majority of the amendments address site-specific issues. Map 1-1 indicates their regional location; specific maps can be found in Appendix A.

CALIFORNIA DESERT CONSERVATION AREA

1986 Plan Amendments INDEX MAP

MAP 1-1

• AMENDMENT NUMBER



CHAPTER 2

ALTERNATIVES

CHAPTER II

AMENDMENTS AND ALTERNATIVES

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Six proposed amendments to the California Desert Plan have been accepted for consideration. Each amendment has been considered individually for either acceptance or rejection. The rejection of an amendment represents the "no action" alternative.

The amendments have been grouped into the following categories:

1. Vehicle Access
2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
3. Wild Horses and Burros
4. Energy Production and Utility Corridors
5. Eastern San Diego County Planning Unit MFP

Table 2-1 describes each of the proposed amendments and the reasons given by the proponent for the change. Maps of each amendment are located in Appendix A; the proponents of the amendments are listed in Appendix B (Table B-3).

TABLE 2-1 - DESCRIPTION OF AMENDMENTS

Amendment Number	Proponent's Reason for Submission	Preferred Alternative	Rationale for Selection of Preferred Alternative
1	<u>VEHICLE ACCESS</u> Change boundary of vehicle closure area in North Saline Valley. (CA Assoc. 4-WD Clubs).	Accept with modification	Boundary of the vehicle closure would be changed to exclude route S-014, which is outside WSA 117 and is passable to 4WD vehicles. The rest of the closure would be unchanged, since routes F-30110 and S-0716 could not be used without extensive reconstruction which would impair wilderness quality of WSA 117.
2	<u>VEHICLE ACCESS</u> "The existence of routes connecting the Jackass Flats Road (S-13) and Waucoba Wash (S-0716) with the county maintained Whiporwill Canyon Road suggests that management would be most effective if routes S-014 and S-0716 were open. F-30110 is a historical route which should be "open."	Accept	Amendment accepted for reasons given in proponent's application.
3	<u>ACECs/SPECIAL AREAS</u> Change motorized vehicle access designation in Orocopia Mountains from "closed" to "limited." (BLM, Indio R.A.)	Accept	When this area was designated "closed" in the ICP and the CDCA plan, several routes were left open. In subsequent planning actions (route designation and Habitat Management Plan), routes were reviewed and changes were made to improve manageability of the area. The closure would be eliminated and management conducted according to the Wilderness Interim Management Policy (IMP). A "limited" designation, coupled with IMP guidelines for the Orocopia Mountains WSA, would provide adequate protection and a more appropriate vehicle designation.
4	<u>WILD HORSES AND BURROS</u> Modify boundary of Saline Valley ACEC as recommended in recently prepared ACEC management plan. (BLM, Ridgecrest R.A.)	Accept	Modified boundary includes important water sources, habitats adjacent to the marsh, co-reserve lands owned by California Fish & Game, and archaeological and historical areas.
	<u>WILD HORSES AND BURROS</u> Eliminate Kramer Herd Management Area designation and reduce burro population to zero. (Edwards Air Force Base)	Accept	Over the past several years, the herd has been migrating onto the east and south sides of Rogers Dry Lake, causing potential interference with aircraft landings and damage to archaeological sites, one of which may be eligible for the National Register.

TABLE 2-1 - DESCRIPTION OF AMENDMENTS

Amendment Number	Amendment	Proponent's Reason for Submission	Preferred Alternative	Rationale for Selection of Preferred Alternative
	<u>ENERGY PRODUCTION & UTILITY CORRIDORS</u>	<p>Shift the portion of Corridor BB between Zzyzx and Shadow Mtn. to the north of Interstate 15. (L.A. Dept. of Water & Power).</p> <p><u>EASTERN SAN DIEGO COUNTY PLANNING UNIT</u></p> <p><u>MFP</u></p>	<p>Accept with Condition</p>	<p>The Bureau agrees that Corridor BB should be removed from the south side of Interstate-15 west of Excelsior Mine Road, to avoid new rights-of-way within that section of the East Mojave National Scenic Area. However, that portion of the amended corridor which is within wilderness study areas will not be usable unless Congress decides not to designate the areas as wilderness.</p>
5		<p>This portion of Corridor BB is presently within the East Mojave National Scenic Area and is sensitive to routing of a utility line.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>Amendment accepted for reasons given in proponent's application.</p>
6		<p>Change two acres of Carrizo Gorge Wilderness Study Area from Class "L" to class "C". (BLM, El Centro).</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>The two acres originally designated as Class "L" were designed to provide ORV access to scenic overlooks within the WSA. Field evaluation since completion of the MFP showed that the overlooks were incorrectly mapped; one was outside the WSA and the other was only partly inside the WSA boundary. Thus, ORV access was not needed. In addition, prohibiting vehicle access would be protective of the rare peninsular bighorn sheep.</p>

TABLE 2-2
CANDIDATE AMENDMENTS - SUMMARY OF IMPACTS

✗ = POSITIVE IMPACT - = NEGATIVE IMPACT

Amend. Number	Amendment	RESOURCES					USES					
		Soil - Air - Water	Botany	Wildlife	Horses - Burros	Cultural Resources	Native Americans	Wilderness	Visual Resources	Livestock Grazing	Recreation	Lands
1.	North Saline Valley	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2.	Orocopia Mountain	-	-	-	-	✗	-	-	✗	✗	-	-
3.	Saline Valley ACEC	✗	✗	✗	✗	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4.	Burro Area 'J'	✗	✗	✗	✗	-	-	-	✗	-	-	-
5.	Utility Corridor BB	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6.	Carizzo Gorge WSA	-	-	-	-	✗	-	-	-	-	-	-

CHAPTER 3

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

CHAPTER III

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Affected Environment refers specifically to that area which may be impacted by a proposed amendment. In some amendments, this may be extremely limited; in others, it may apply to the entire California Desert Conservation Area.

Sources of information are available which discuss the affected environment adequately for this document. These references are given in the following table for each amendment. For some amendments, additional background or a more in-depth discussion of major resource values is necessary. These are given in the section on Supplementary Information which follows the table.

References which discuss the affected environment include:

- The California Desert Conservation Plan (including overlays), 1980.
- The Appendices for the Final Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Plan, CDCA, September, 1980.
- Eastern San Diego County Planning Unit Management Framework Plan, April, 1981.

Abbreviations will be used in identifying references for this section, as follows:

- California Desert Conservation Area Plan, 1980: CDCA Plan
- Maps contained in the CDCA Plan will be identified by their number. For example, the map of Wild Horses and Burros (p. 65): Map No. 8
- Appendices to the Final Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Plan for the California Desert Conservation Area will be identified by the letter of the volume and the number of the appendix. For example, Volume A, Appendix II (Summary of Decisions and Resource Values) would be abbreviated as Appendix A-II. Other commonly used abbreviations are Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), Wilderness Study Area (WSA), Geology-Energy-Minerals (GEM), and Multiple-Use Class (MUC).

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

<u>Amendment</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Reference</u>
1	Change boundary of vehicle closure in North Saline Valley.	CDCA Plan, Maps 3-8, 10-15, 17, Table 2. Appendix A-II, pp.134-138, 139-140; Appendix B, pp. 61-68;
2	Change motorized vehicle access in Orocopia Mountains.	CDCA Plan, Maps 3,4,7, 10-13, Table 2. Appendix A-II, pp.452-456; Appendix B, pp.616-621; Appendix C, pp. 233-239; Orocopia Mountains Habitat Management Plan, 1986.
3	Modify boundary of Saline Valley ACEC (No. 4).	CDCA Plan, Maps 3,5, 7,8,10,13,14,15,17; Tables 2,15. Appendix A-II, pp.134-138, 152-156; Appendix B, pp.61-68, 86-96; Appendix C, p.3 Sikes Act Management Plan for Saline Valley ACEC, 1982.

4 Eliminate Kramer Herd Management Area and reduce burro population to zero. CDCA Plan, Maps 3-6, 8,9,13, 17; Tables 5,6. Appendix A-II, pp. 222-226; Appendix C, pp. 28-29;

5 Move part of Corridor BB to north side of Interstate 15. CDCA Plan, Maps 3,4, 7-9, 11-17; Tables, 2,6,15.

6 Change MUC of two acres of Carrizo Gorge WSA from "L" to "C". Eastern San Diego County Planning Unit (ESDCPU) MFP; DEIS and FEIS for Livestock Grazing and Wilderness Management in ESDCPU; FEIS on Wilderness Recommendations for ESDCPU.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

AMENDMENT ONE:

VEHICLE ACCESS - NORTH SALINE VALLEY

The north Saline Valley was closed to vehicle use in 1974 by the Interim Critical Management Program for Vehicle Use on the California Desert (ICMP). The closure was incorporated into the CDCA Plan in 1980. Almost all of the area is located within Wilderness Study Area (WSA) 117, which ranked number one among the 137 WSAs in the CDCA. The WSA contains 405,215 acres in the southern half of Eureka Valley and Saline Valley.

The amendment would affect approximately 19,800 acres of public land within the vehicle closure and would provide for vehicle use on 29 miles of routes identified on BLM route inventory maps, twenty eight of which are within WSA 117.

The routes which the amendment proposes to exclude from the closure were field checked by BLM staff on June 11-12, 1986. Route F-30110, which formerly crossed the Last Chance Range, is passable to 4-WD vehicles for only 2 1/2 miles, beyond which it is completely gone, with only a few small segments remaining. This route would enter Death Valley National Monument and would include two miles of cross-country travel on a dry wash within the Monument. Cross-country vehicle use is prohibited in the Monument.

Route S-0716, which, according to the proponent, should connect Jackass Flats with the county-maintained Whiporwill Canyon Road, was found to exist for only two miles south of Jackson Flat, after which it became impassable to vehicles.

Route S-014 is a short partial loop going northeast from Route S-013, the Jackass Flats Road. It is cherrystemmed into WSA 117 but is inside the North Saline Valley closure. The route is approximately two miles in length and is passable to 4-WD vehicles.

AMENDMENT TWO:

MOTORIZED VEHICLE ACCESS IN OROCOPIA MOUNTAINS

This amendment would change the motorized vehicle access designation in the Orocopia Mountains from "closed" to "limited" and provide for management under the Interim Management Policy for WSAs.

Portions of the Orocopia Mountains were designated closed to vehicle access in the ICMP of 1974. This designation was continued in the CDCA Plan. Within the closed area, a few routes were left open.

Subsequent planning actions, including the Route Designation Process and the Orocopia Mountain Habitat Management Plan, involved a thorough review of the vehicle access issue in this area. As a result, several changes were made to improve management of vehicles. Modifications were made to the two

routes which provide access to water sources for wildlife, designating them closed either on a permanent or seasonal basis. Another road leading to a key wildlife water source (Canyon Springs) remained closed. Three other routes which had not been previously identified were designated open. These routes are located in the northern portion of the amendment area and are primarily on private lands. Each route begins and ends on private land, with only a short section within the "closed" area. In addition, vehicle use of these routes does not conflict with the rationale for the original closure. This action was considered consistent with criteria established as the basis for route designation decisions.

A change of classification to "limited" would provide a more appropriate designation class which would be more consistent with the current management of the area.

Wildlife

The Orocopia Mountains support a herd of approximately 80 Nelson bighorn sheep and sufficient burro deer to make the area popular for hunting. The herd of bighorn is the largest in the desert portion of Riverside County and ranks 11th among the 38 herds in the California Desert. The Habitat Management Plan (Sikes Act) for the area proposes to use the herd to supply transplant stock for reintroduction to several other mountain ranges in Riverside County.

AMENDMENT THREE: SALINE VALLEY ACEC BOUNDARY

Cultural

Lands to be added to the ACEC contain significant archaeological sites, such as the Hunter Canyon Village, ceremonial rock formations, temporary camps, and rock art. The Hunter Canyon Village site is the most significant archaeological site within the ACEC. Early ethnographic accounts indicate it was inhabited in the 1870's and 1880's by Shoshoni families.

Wildlife

Also present in the area to be added are valuable wildlife resources, including (1) the principle water supply for the Saline Valley Marsh, (2) two permanent streams in Hunter Canyon which contain extensive aquatic and riparian habitats, and (3) high value wildlife habitat on lands acquired by the California Department of Fish and Game (portions of Saline Valley Marsh and adjacent lake bed.)

AMENDMENT FOUR:
BURRO HERD MANAGEMENT AREA "J"

The Kramer Herd Management Area (HMA J) was approved in the CDCA Plan in 1980. The HMA was rated low priority for development of a Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP). Within the HMA there are 11,800 acres of which 6,120 are public lands, 5,760 are military, and 1,920 are private. The burro population of 20-25 animals is entirely within the boundaries of Edwards AFB. The burros do not utilize the public lands because of the lack of forage and water.

The burros are interfering with aircraft landings at Edwards Air Force Base and are causing damage to cultural resources. The Air Force Base would like BLM to remove all of the burros and prevent their repopulating the area.

Wildlife, Cultural Resources

Two major wildlife species in the area are the Mojave ground squirrel and the desert tortoise. There are no cultural resources on the public lands; however, there are known cultural sites located on Edwards Air Force Base.

Vegetation, Soils

The HMA has two plant assemblages. These are the Creosote/Burro Bush Scrub and the Western Mojave Saltbush Scrub. The area is also within the Western Mojave Desert Saltbush Unusual Plant Assemblage

As with most desert soils, the soils in the HMA are moderately to highly susceptible to erosion when surface disturbance occurs. The fragile vegetative cover reduces erosion problems.

AMENDMENT FIVE:
UTILITY CORRIDOR BB

Utility corridor BB is three miles wide and follows the general route of Interstate-15. At the junction of I-15 and the Excelsior Mine Road, the midline of Corridor BB is slightly north of I-15. Going westward to the Halloran Springs Road, the center line of the corridor is a transmission line approximately one-quarter mile north of I-15, so that a slightly wider strip lies on the north side of the freeway and outside the East Mojave National Scenic Area (EMNSA). From Halloran Springs to Baker, the corridor bends south so that over two-thirds of its width is inside the EMNSA.

This amendment would move the portion of the corridor between the Excelsior Mine Road and Zzyzx (just west of Baker) to the north side of I-15 so that additional utility lines would not enter the scenic area. However, this realigned corridor would pass through WSA 228, Hollow Hills, and WSA 242, Soda Mountains.

Wildlife

The section of Utility Corridor BB lying between the Excelsior Mine Road and a few miles west of Halloran Springs is within the Shadow Valley Habitat Management Plan Area. Critical habitat for the desert tortoise lies on both sides of Interstate-15, with densities of 20 to 50 tortoises per square mile. The amount of habitat which would be affected by moving the corridor would be approximately the same as that which is now affected south of the Interstate. Much of the area just north of I-15 is already disturbed by various rights-of-way, including a 138 kv transmission line.

AMENDMENT SIX: CARRIZO GORGE WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

The Carrizo Gorge WSA is part of an area which was closed to vehicle use by the 1978 McCain Valley Habitat Management Plan (HMP). The purpose of the closure was protection of wildlife habitat, particularly the peninsular bighorn sheep, which is classified as a threatened mammal by the State of California and is a candidate for listing by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service as "threatened or "endangered."

The 1979 McCain Valley Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP) and the 1981 Eastern San Diego County Management Framework Plan (MFP) provided for the possibility of reopening a portion of the closed area to seasonal vehicle use by permit, depending on the results of wildlife studies.

Field evaluation since the closure has shown that the herd of peninsular bighorn responded positively to vehicle exclusion. A final decision on whether or not to reopen a portion of the closed area has not been made.

The Eastern San Diego County MFP recommended almost all of the Carrizo Gorge WSA (CA-060-025) as suitable for wilderness designation. Two acres were recommended nonsuitable and classified as Class "L" for possible future use as routes to scenic overlooks. Recent aerial examination showed that the proposed overlooks were mapped incorrectly in the Eastern San Diego County Wilderness EIS, which showed them at the Grunt and Gasp benchmarks. The actual overlook locations are approximately 3/4 mile west of each benchmark. The northern overlook is just outside the WSA boundary, while the southern overlook is only about 100 yards inside the WSA. Since the majority of public land users would be able to walk this short distance, vehicle access into the WSA is not necessary.

CHAPTER 4

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

CHAPTER IV
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides the scientific and analytic basis for the selection of the preferred alternative. It discusses the significant impacts that are anticipated to result from both implementation and rejection of each of the amendments. Both the beneficial and adverse impacts affecting the environmental components, as discussed in Chapter 3, will be documented. Knowledge of the area and professional judgment, based on observation and analysis of similar conditions and responses in similar areas, have been used to infer environmental impacts where data is limited.

The analysis of the amendments is based on the following assumptions:

- Funds and personnel are available for implementation.
- Impacts will be monitored and adjusted as necessary.
- Minor adjustments in management may occur.
- Baseline data are accurate.

Within each amendment analysis, the discussion is organized by resource. Only those resources affected are discussed. A resource that is not expected to be affected is not addressed. Except where specifically noted, no impacts on air quality are anticipated.

SPECIFIC IMPACTS

AMENDMENT ONE:
VEHICLE ACCESS - NORTH SALINE VALLEY

Alternative A: Accept Amendment

Wildlife

Route F-30110, which would cross the Last Chance Range, would invade the habitat of desert bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis*) which are listed as "sensitive" by the BLM. Approximately 85 sheep range from Last Chance Mountain south to Dry Mountain. The Department of Fish and Game has a long-range plan to construct a water facility or guzzler approximately one mile from the proposed vehicle route.

No significant adverse impacts to desert bighorn would be expected, because the amount of public use on the route would be low and vehicle use would be confined to just one route crossing the mountain range. Abundant habitat lies on both sides of the proposed route. No adverse impacts would be expected after construction of the water facility, since little public use of the route would occur during the summer season which is the critical period for bighorn use of water facilities.

Opening Routes S-014 and S-0716 would produce no significant adverse impacts on wildlife.

Vegetation

The proposed route F-30110 would increase the potential for adverse impacts on the plant species Dedeckera eurekensis, which is listed as "rare" by the California Department of Fish and Game and "sensitive" by the BLM. The route would pass through part of Dedeckera Canyon, thus entering prime habitat for this sensitive species.

Impacts could occur from mechanical improvements required to make the route passable to vehicles and from deviation of vehicles from the route to avoid impassable sections caused by flooding, erosion, etc. The route would not be maintained by the BLM or other governmental agencies.

Opening Routes S-014 and S-0716 would produce no significant adverse impacts on vegetation.

Cultural Resources

The change in boundary of the closure would open areas with cultural resources to public access. These resources would become accessible by vehicle and more vulnerable to adverse affects, such as collecting and vandalism.

Wilderness

With the exception of Route S-014, all routes which would be excluded from the North Saline Valley closure by this amendment lie within WSA 117. Extensive mechanical improvement of the routes would be required to make them passable to 4-WD vehicles. The result would be the construction of essentially new vehicle routes which would impair the wilderness quality of the amendment area.

Vehicle Access

Accepting the proposed amendment would have a positive impact on vehicle access and a negative impact on wilderness quality in WSA 117. The two primary routes which would be opened under this proposal, F-30110 and S-0176, are not passable even to 4-WD vehicles over a major portion of their length due to erosion and other forms of natural reclamation. Extensive mechanical improvement would be necessary to make them usable, with resulting impairment of wilderness quality.

Alternative B: No Action

A high level of protection for wildlife, vegetation and wilderness values would continue. The areas which would have been excluded from the vehicle

closure would remain suitable for wilderness designation. The potential for damage to sensitive plants in Dedeckera Canyon would remain at its present level.

AMENDMENT TWO:
VEHICLE ACCESS - OROCOPIA MOUNTAINS

Alternative A: Accept Amendment

Wildlife

Acceptance of this proposal would have a minimal effect on bighorn sheep, burro deer, and other wildlife. Off-road vehicle use and its effects on wildlife in the Orocopias was reviewed during the route designation process and during preparation of the Orocopia Mountain Habitat Management Plan. As a result, routes leading to wildlife water sources which were formerly open were closed on either a seasonal or permanent basis.

Some adverse impacts to wildlife could occur if ORV use in the area increases. Adjacent Salt Creek and nearby Mecca Hills are popular camping and off-road destinations. However, vehicle use of routes in the Orocopias, an area under WSA Interim Management Plan guidelines, is monitored periodically. If vehicle use should cause unacceptable impacts to wildlife, wilderness suitability, or other resources, routes would be closed or limited through the annual route designation amendment process.

With adequate enforcement and signing of routes, adverse impacts to wildlife are expected to be minimal.

Vegetation

Small adverse effects on vegetation throughout the amendment area could occur as vehicle use increases due to removal of the closure. Impacts to Astragalus funereus, which occurs on the southeastern border of the area and which is a candidate for listing by the Fish and Wildlife Service, are expected to be negligible.

Wilderness

Although the northern portion of the amendment area is within the Orocopia Mountain Wilderness Study Area (No. 344), acceptance of this amendment should have no effect on wilderness quality, since the area will be managed according to the Interim Management Policy.

Recreation

Accepting the amendment could have a positive effect on vehicle-oriented recreation. However, the overall effect will be slight because all known routes have been inventoried and appropriately designated.

Geology-Energy-Minerals

Acceptance of the proposal would have a slight positive effect on mining by opening access for mineral exploration. The effect would be minor, however, since most of the Orocopia Mountains with mineral potential is already under mining claims. The "limited" designation would allow the use of routes which are not specifically designated "closed." Under the "closed" designation, most routes would continue to be closed, and a plan of operations would be required for access for prospecting.

No effect is anticipated on exploration or development of leasable or salable minerals.

Alternative B: Reject Amendment (No Action)

Wildlife

The potential for impacts from ORVs on bighorn and other wildlife would be less under the present situation. Although, all known routes have been inventoried and designated to prevent impacts to wildlife, some existing routes could have been omitted from the initial inventory. Under the "no action" alternative, any existing routes not inventoried (and thus not designated) would automatically be closed.

Motorized Vehicle Access

Rejection of the amendment would continue the existence of an unsuitable "closed" designation for this area. During the route designation process, vehicle access was modified to provide better management of the area. Routes were evaluated on an individual basis and designated open, closed, or limited as appropriate.

AMENDMENT THREE: SALINE VALLEY ACEC BOUNDARY

Alternative A: Accept Amendment

Cultural Resources

The significant historic and cultural resources to be incorporated into the ACEC (please see Chapter III) would be offered additional protection

and management attention, including ranger patrol and cultural resources monitoring.

Wildlife

The ACEC boundary modification would have a positive effect on wildlife resources because it incorporates within the ACEC the primary water for the marsh located in Hunter Canyon. Also incorporated would be additional habitats surrounding the marsh, including mesquite thickets, a perennial stream, and riparian vegetation. ACEC status would provide for protection of these additional wildlife habitats.

Recreation

Acceptance of the amendment would have a long-term benefit on such recreation activities as birdwatching, hunting, and hiking, due to the protection of the water supply for the marsh by incorporation of the Hunter Canyon area into the ACEC.

Geology-Energy-Minerals

There would be no effect on mineral or energy development, since ACEC status allows for multiple use. The ACEC plan identifies the need for a withdrawal to protect the marsh and water supplies, but that process would be entertained at a later date with a separate environmental analysis.

Alternative B: Reject Amendment (No Action)

Wildlife, Cultural Resources

Rejection of the amendment would deprive the sensitive wildlife and cultural resources within the amendment area of the additional management attention given to ACECs. It would increase the possibility that conflicting uses could damage these resources.

AMENDMENT FOUR:

ELIMINATE KRAMER HERD MANAGEMENT AREA

Alternative A: Accept Amendment

Wildlife

Removal of the burros would have a slight positive effect on habitat for the desert tortoise and the Mojave ground squirrel. The Western Mojave Desert Critical Habitat Management Plan Area (HMPA) includes the Kramer Management Area. The goal of the Habitat Management Plan is to protect crucial habitats for the above two species.

Vegetation, Soils

Acceptance of the amendment would avoid further soil erosion on the Air Force Base due to burro trails in the sandy areas. Impairment of visibility for aircraft due to blowing sand would decrease.

Cultural Resources

The potential for damage to cultural resources by burros would be eliminated.

Wild Horses and Burros

This alternative would have a negative impact on the population of burros in this region. However, eliminating the HMA designation and removing the burros from the air base would protect the animals from potential injury if they should wander onto an impact zone or target area or if they should encounter some unexploded ordnance.

This alternative would have a positive impact on the management of the area. The HMA is located on Edwards Air Force Base and on public and private lands to the east. Highway 395 runs through the middle of the HMA. The only water is located on the air base, so burros stay nearby. Even if the eastern boundary of the base were fenced and the burros relocated to public lands east of the fence, there would be inadequate habitat (food and water) on the public lands to maintain the herd.

Social

Approval of the amendment would eliminate the problem of burros endangering aircraft.

Alternative B: Reject Amendment (No Action)

Wildlife

Retention of the herd at its present level would continue a slight negative impact on the habitat of the desert tortoise and the Mojave ground squirrel.

Vegetation, Soils

On the military base, soil erosion would continue as described above.

Cultural Resources

Effect of burros on cultural resources would remain at the present level. Additional damage to archaeological sites on the military base would be expected.

Wild Horses and Burros

Rejection of the amendment would have a positive effect on the burro population but would allow the problem on the military base to continue, causing interference with aircraft landing and damage to cultural resources on the base.

AMENDMENT FIVE UTILITY CORRIDOR BB

Alternative A: Accept Amendment

Wildlife

Accepting the amendment would result in a negative impact to wildlife, since Corridor BB would be extended into undisturbed areas of critical desert tortoise habitat north of I-15. The area south of the interstate would continue to be affected by maintenance of existing facilities; however, this impact would not be increased by addition of new facilities.

Vegetation

Moving the utility corridor to the north of I-15 could negatively affect vegetation in undisturbed areas. The Shadscale Unusual Plan Assemblage north of the Valley Wells rest stop in Shadow Valley could be impacted by future construction north of the existing 138 kv powerline.

Cultural Resources

The Halloran Wash ACEC, which is intended to protect a major complex of archaeological sites, is almost entirely within the existing corridor. Moving the corridor to the north would incorporate the remainder of the ACEC but should have little or no negative impact. All rights-of-way must be evaluated for cultural resources, and if these resources cannot be avoided, impacts must be mitigated.

Livestock Grazing

The newly-aligned utility corridor would enter 14,000 acres of the Valley Wells grazing allotment north of I-15 but would not substantially affect grazing operations. Forage loss due to construction would be minimal - less than two AUMs per transmission line. All impacts on range improvements could be mitigated.

Scenic Quality

Preventing developments south of I-15 in this segment of corridor BB would protect the viewshed within the East Mojave National Scenic Area from further impact. However, there would be a negative impact on scenic quality north of I-15, particularly in the area adjacent to WSA 228 (Hollow Hills) and WSA 242 (Soda Mountains), where there is only a 1/4- to 1/2-mile-wide strip of corridor next to the highway which could be used for new power lines.

Wilderness

Accepting the amendment would result in the location of a right-of-way corridor in two Wilderness Study Areas. The Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands under Wilderness Review states that corridors may be designated in WSAs. However, the existence of a corridor would not affect the WSAs, since no new rights-of-way may be authorized in the corridor unless Congress decides not to designate the area as wilderness.

Energy production and Utility Corridors

Accepting the amendment would place several constraints on the ability of energy and utility companies to acquire new rights-of-way within Corridor BB. The location of the southern boundaries of WSAs 228 and 242 would restrict the width of the 3-mile wide corridor to only 1/2 mile for approximately five miles from Baker to Halloran Spring. A corridor this width may be inadequate to accomodate the usage which may be needed in the next few years.

Alternative B: Reject Amendment (No Action)

Wildlife

Rejection of the proposal would allow continuance of the existing situation. Although wildlife would be affected by future construction, the impact would not extend into the Shadow Valley desert tortoise habitat.

Vegetation

There would be little or no effect, since vegetation is already disturbed throughout the existing corridor.

Cultural Resources

Leaving the corridor in its present position would avoid potential effects on cultural resources in a small section of the Halloran Wash ACEC which would be covered by the revised utility corridor.

Livestock Grazing

Rejection of the amendment would have no effect on livestock grazing.

Scenic Quality

The viewshed south of I-15 within the EMNSA would be subject to the impacts of almost certain future construction of energy and utility facilities.

Wilderness

This alternative would have no effect on the WSAs within and adjacent to Corridor BB. No new rights-of-way would be authorized in WSAs prior to Congressional action.

Energy Production and Utility Corridors

Rejecting the amendment would allow for authorization of additional rights-of-way within the existing corridor. Because the Boulder Corridor is almost saturated with overhead lines, requests for the use of Corridor BB are expected to increase.

AMENDMENT SIX CARRIZO GORGE WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

Alternative A: Accept Amendment

Wildlife

Accepting the amendment would have a very slight positive effect on wildlife habitat by insuring that 100 yards of currently closed vehicle route in bighorn sheep habitat would remain closed.

Recreation

This alternative would have a very minor negative impact on potential off-road-vehicle use. Vehicle use would be prohibited within the WSA, and a 100-yard walk would be required to reach the southern overlook.

Wilderness

The amendment would assure that two acres of land possessing wilderness characteristics would be recommended for wilderness designation.

Alternative B: Reject Amendment (No Action)

Wildlife

Rejecting the amendment could potentially have a very slight negative effect on bighorn sheep habitat by making it possible for 100 yards of a currently closed vehicle route to be reopened on a seasonal basis in the future.

Recreation

Rejecting the amendment would have a very minor potential positive effect on off-road vehicle recreation, since the opportunity to drive directly to the southern scenic overlook would be continued.

Wilderness

Wilderness values along a 100-yard section of off-road vehicle trail could be impacted by vehicle use. This effect could be minimized by limiting the number of vehicles and the season of use by permit.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Table 4-1 presents the cumulative impacts of the preferred alternative.

TABLE 4-1
SUMMARY OF CUMMULATIVE IMPACTS

Resource	Unit of Measure	No Action	Preferred Alternative	Percent Change	Percent of Desert
<u>Multiple Use Class</u>					
C	Acres	1,655,940	1,655,942	0	13.7 (17.3)*
L	Acres	6,311,631	6,311,629	0	52.1 (48.8)
M	Acres	3,352,183	3,352,183	0	27.7 (27.5)
I	Acres	588,240	588,240	0	4.6 (4.1)
Unclassified	Acres	239,285	239,285	0	2.0 (2.6)
<u>Vehicle Access</u>					
Open	Acres	567,870	567,870	0	
Limited	Acres	9,307,670	9,331,670	+0.3	
Closed	Acres	1,982,950	1,958,950	-1.2	
Undesignated	Acres	258,580	258,580	0	
<u>ACEC's</u>					
Added	Number		0		
	Acres		2,386		
Deleted	Number		0		
	Acres		0		
Net Change	Number		0		
	Acres		+2,386		

*Percent of Area in Original Plan

CHAPTER 5

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

CHAPTER V
CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

NOTICES AND MEETINGS

The 1986 Amendment Process was announced by a letter sent to the Desert Plan mailing list on February 6, 1986. The list consists of approximately 6,100 individuals, organizations, businesses, and governmental agencies. The letter outlined the criteria for evaluating amendment proposals and gave the final date for submitting proposals as March 17, 1986. A Federal Register notice was published on January 31, 1986 (Vol. 51, No. 21), and a news release was issued on February 7, 1986.

Proposed amendments were reviewed by the Desert Advisory Council (DAC) at the public meeting in Riverside on April 10, 1986. This meeting, which also served as a scoping meeting for the Environmental Assessment (EA), was announced in the Federal Register on March 10, 1986 and in a news release on April 2, 1986.

PUBLIC INPUT

Thirteen letters were received in response to the invitation for amendment proposals. Six were from individuals, two from organizations, two from businesses, two from utilities, and one from a Federal agency. All were from California. Nine respondents offered 13 proposals.

Three of these were recommended by the Desert Advisory Council and approved by BLM management for consideration in the 1986 amendment process. The remainder will be handled by other administrative processes or dropped as inappropriate. Each amendment proposal and its fate are listed in Appendix B.

LIST OF PREPARERS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Team Assignment (Amend. No.)</u>
Irene Rice	Environmental Specialist	California Desert District	Team Leader
Rhonda Hunter	Typist	California Desert District	Administrative Support
Sandra Robles	Typist	California Desert District	Administrative Support
Clara Stapp	Illustrator	California Desert District	Graphics
Jeffrey Aardahl	Wildlife Biologist	Ridgecrest R.A.	Wildlife (1,3)
Roger Alexander	Natural Resource Specialist	Needles R.A.	Wildlife (5)
John R. Bailey	East Mojave National Scenic Area Manager	Needles R.A.	Visual Resources (5)
Donald R. Banks	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Indio R.A.	Recreation (2)
Mark Davis	Wilderness Specialist	Barstow R.A.	Wilderness (5)
Dean Huibregtse	Range Conservationist	Barstow R.A.	Botany, Soils, Burros, Grazing (4,5)
Stephen Larson	Range Conservationist	Needles R.A.	Botany (5) Livestock Grazing (5)
Steve Nelson	Outdoor Recreation Planner	El Centro R.A.	Recreation, Vehicle Access, Wilderness (6)
Robert O'Brien	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Indio R.A.	Wilderness (2)
Lillian Olech	Wildlife Biologist	El Centro R.A.	Wildlife (6)
Joan Oxendine	Archaeologist	Ridgecrest R.A.	Cultural Resources (1,3)
Louis Pizatella	Natural Resource Specialist	Indio R.A.	Botany (2)
Fred Schuster	Geologist	Indio R.A.	Geology (2)
Steve Smith	Chief, Resources Protection Staff	Ridgecrest R.A.	Recreation (1,3) Vehicle Access (1,3)
Eric Watkins	Natural Resource Specialist	Ridgecrest R.A.	Botany (1,3)
Faye (Davis) Winters	Wildlife Biologist	Indio R.A.	Wildlife (2)
Sue Woods	Visitor Services Specialist	Needles R.A.	Wilderness, Utility Corridors (6)
Stan Zuber	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Ridgecrest R.A.	Recreation, Vehicle Access (1,3)

GLOSSARY

ALLOTMENT: An area of land where one or more operators graze their livestock. It generally consists of public lands, but may include parcels of private or state-owned lands. The number of livestock and period of use are stipulated for each allotment. An allotment may consist of several pastures or be only one pasture.

ANIMAL UNIT MONTH (AUM): (1) The amount of forage or feed required by an animal unit (i.e., one mature 1000-lb. cow or five sheep) for one month. (2) Tenure of one animal-unit for one month.

AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN (ACEC): Areas within the public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.

CALIFORNIA DESERT PLAN ELEMENT: A component of the California Desert Plan. Each element provides a more specific application of the multiple-use class guidelines for a specific resource or activity (such as wildlife or wilderness).

CHERRYSYSTEM: Fingerlike intrusions into a wilderness study area which are not themselves part of the WSA (for example, an access road).

CLOSED AREA: No vehicle travel is allowed in these areas, which include the following: (1) some land in ACECs where provided for in the ACEC Management Plan, (2) certain sand dunes and dry lakebeds and washes, (3) areas designated as "closed" in the CDCA Plan, and (4) wilderness areas when established by Congress unless exempted.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: Those fragile and nonrenewable remains of human activity, occupation, or endeavor, which are reflected in district sites, structures, buildings, objects, artifacts, ruins, works of art, architecture or natural features.

EAST MOJAVE NATIONAL SCENIC AREA: A region of the CDCA designated as a Special Area because of its unique cultural, scenic and recreation values. A management philosophy statement was published in the Federal Register on August 19, 1981. This statement will provide guidance during development of management plans for several special areas within the scenic area.

FLPMA: The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (Public Law 94-579, 90 Stat 2743, 43 USC 1701).

HABITAT: The natural environment of a plant or animal.

HABITAT MANAGEMENT PLAN: Detailed plans developed specifically for wildlife habitats or species which require intensive, active management programs.

HERD MANAGEMENT AREAS: Wild horses and burro management areas. Populations of the animals are protected and managed within the areas through the development and implementation of Herd Management Area Plans (HMAP).

INTERIM MANAGEMENT POLICY (IMP): The Bureau's management policy for lands under wilderness review. The policy is to continue resource use on lands under wilderness review in a manner that maintains the area's suitability for preservation as wilderness (referred to as the "non-impairment standard").

LEASABLE MINERALS: Minerals such as coal, oil, shale, oil and gas, phosphate, potash, sodium, sulphur in New Mexico and Louisiana, silica deposits in certain parts of Nevada, geothermal resources and all other minerals that may be acquired under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended.

LITHIC SCATTER: Stone debris left as a result of tool manufacturing or reshaping.

LOCATABLE MINERALS: Minerals that may be acquired under the Mining Law of 1872, as amended.

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN (MFP): A land-use plan for public lands which provides a set of goals, objectives, and constraints for a specific planning area to guide the development of detailed plans for the management of each resource.

MULTIPLE-USE CLASS: Public lands in the California Desert have been placed in one of four management classes (except for 300,000 "unclassified" acres). Class C includes those lands recommended as suitable for wilderness designation. Class L provides for generally lower-intensity management. Class M provides a balance between higher intensity use and protection of public lands. Class I is an intensive-use zone.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES: The official list, established by the Historic Preservation Act of 1966, of the nation's cultural resources worthy of preservation.

OFF-ROAD VEHICLE (ORV): Any motorized vehicle designed for or capable of cross-country travel on or immediately over land, water, sand, snow, ice, marsh, swampland, or other terrain.

OPEN AREA: An area in which motorized vehicles may travel anywhere. It applies to those areas in Class I specifically designated open and to certain sand dunes and dry lakebeds.

PUBLIC LAND: Land administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

RIGHT-OF-WAY: The public lands authorized to be used or occupied pursuant to Title V of FLPMA (specifically Sec. 507) authorizing and granting use of federal lands to any department or agency of the United States for specified purposes. (See 43 CFR 2807).

RIPARIAN: Situated on/or pertaining to the bank of a river, stream or other body of water. Normally used to refer to the plants of all types that grow rooted in the watertable of streams, ponds and springs.

ROCKSHELTERS: Small rock overhangs or caves usually found in mountainous areas. Some contain perishables.

ROCK ART/ROCK ALIGNMENTS": Rock art, including pictographs and petroglyphs, stove circles and rock walls.

SALEABLE MINERALS: Minerals such as common varieties of sand, stone, gravel, cinders, pumice, pumicite and clay that may be acquired under the Materials Act of 1947, as amended.

UNUSUAL PLANT ASSEMBLAGES (UPA): Stands of vegetation within the CDCA which can be recognized as extraordinary for one or more factors. Factors can include unusual age, size, high cover or density, or separation from main centers of distribution.

VISUAL RESOURCE (SCENIC VALUES): The land, water, vegetative, animal, and other features that are visible on all lands.

WILDERNESS AREA: (1) An area formally designated by Congress as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. (2) An area formally designated as part of the State of California's Wilderness Preservation System.

WILDERNESS NON-SUITABILITY: A management recommendation, based on the application of wilderness suitability criteria, that the best use of resources comprising a Wilderness Study Area would be met without designation of the WSA as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System, permitting uses which might not necessarily be compatible with wilderness values.

WILDERNESS SUITABILITY: A management recommendation, based on the application of wilderness suitability criteria, that the best use of the resources comprising a Wilderness Study Area would be designation of the WSA as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

REFERENCES CITED

U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management

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1980 The California Desert Conservation Area Plan. BLM Desert District, Riverside, California

1980 The California Desert Conservation Area Plan, Final Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Plan, and Appendices, Volume A through G, BLM Desert District Office, Riverside, California.

1980, Eastern San Diego County Planning Unit Livestock Grazing and Wilderness Management Plan; Draft EIS and Final EIS; BLM Desert District, El Centro R.A., El Centro California.

1981 Eastern San Diego County Planning Unit Management Framework Plan, BLM Desert District, EL Centro Resource Area Office, El Centro, California.

1982 A Sikes Act Management Plan for the Saline Valley Area of Critical Environmental Concern and the Saline Valley Marsh Wildlife Habitat Management Area, BLM Desert District, Ridgecrest Resource Area, and State Department of Fish and Game.

1986 A Sikes Act Management Plan for the Orocopia Mountains Wildlife Habitat Management Area, BLM Desert District, Indio Resource Area, Riverside, California.

1986 Eastern San Diego County Planning Unit Wilderness Recommendations, Final Environmental Impact Statement, BLM Desert District, El Centro Resource Area Office, El Centro, California.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

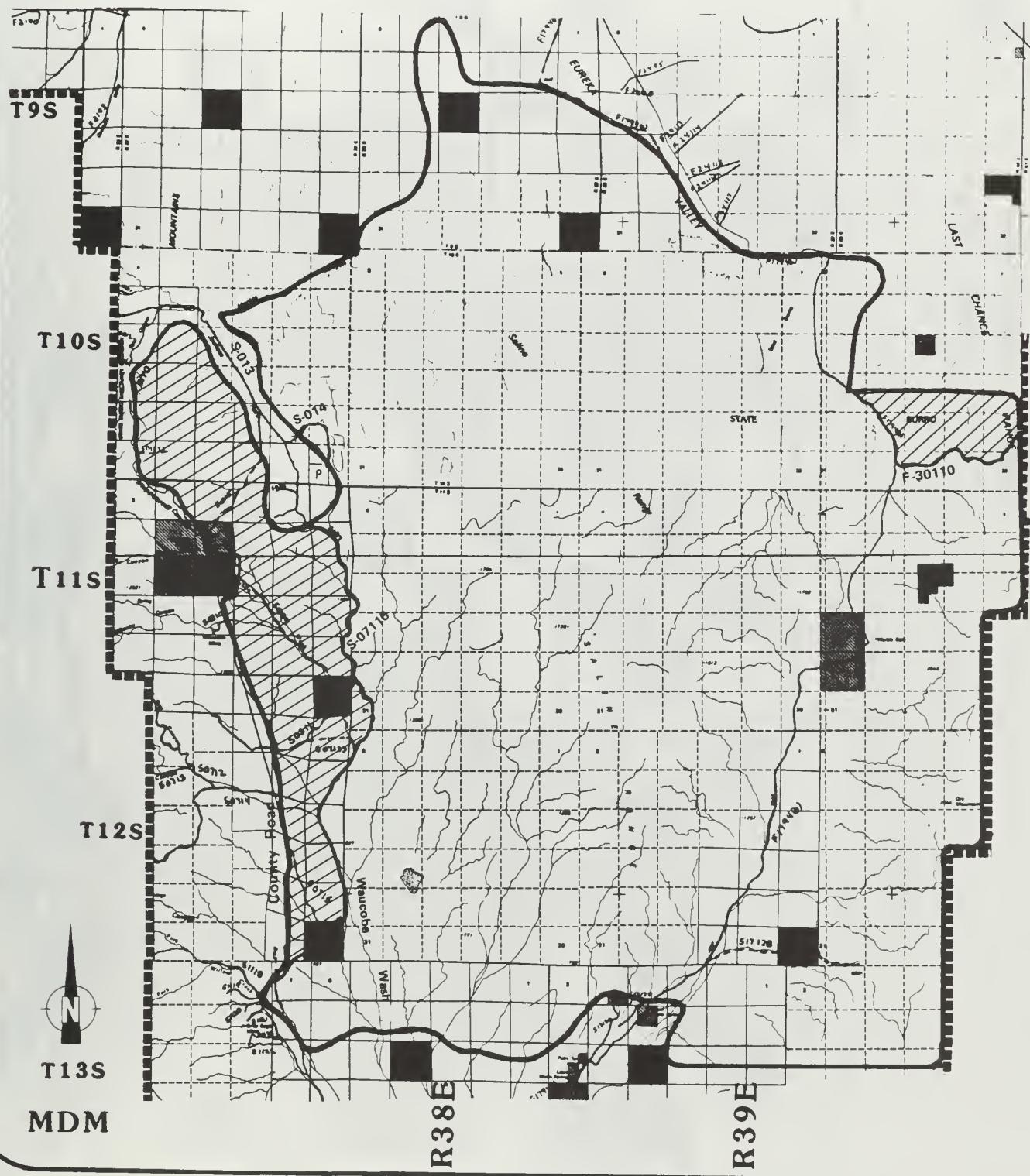
MAPS OF AMENDMENTS

AMENDMENT 1

BOUNDARY CHANGE SALINE VALLEY CLOSURE

— Original Boundary/Closure

Delete from Closure



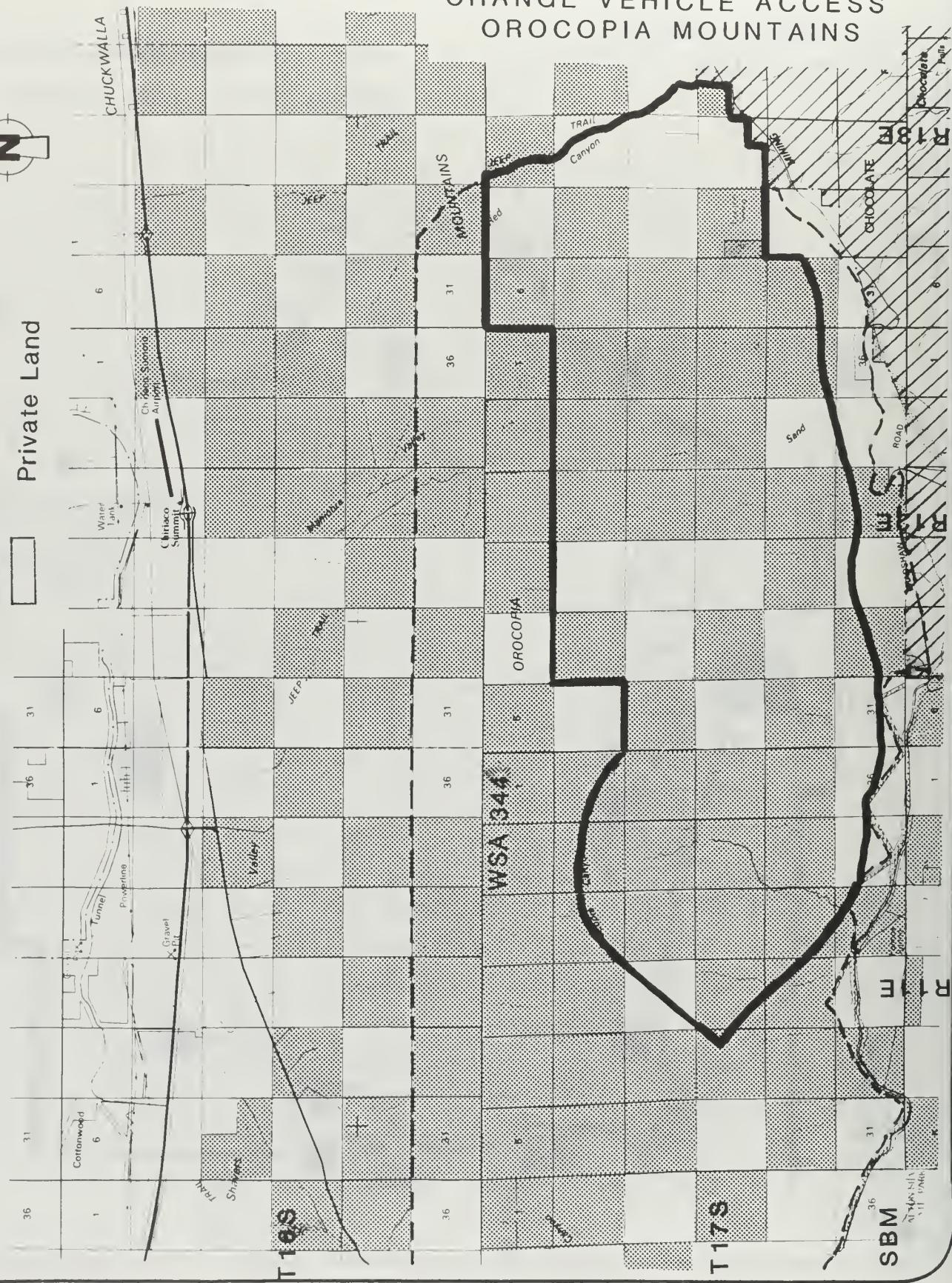
AMENDMENT 2

CHANGE VEHICLE ACCESS OROCOPIA MOUNTAINS

Closure Boundary

WSA Boundary
Public Land

Private Land

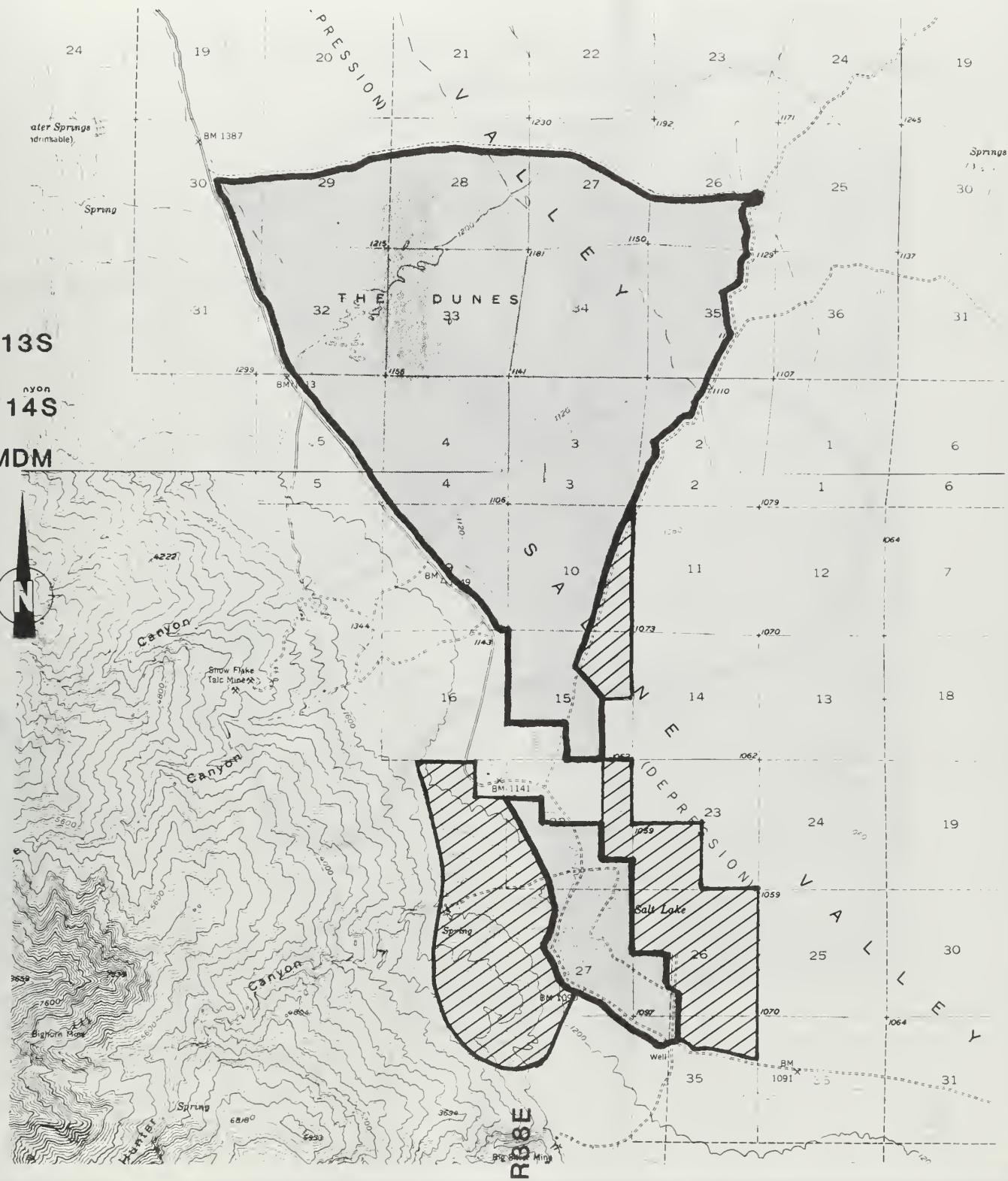


ACEC 4
SALINE VALLEY
MODIFY BOUNDARY

AMENDMENT 3

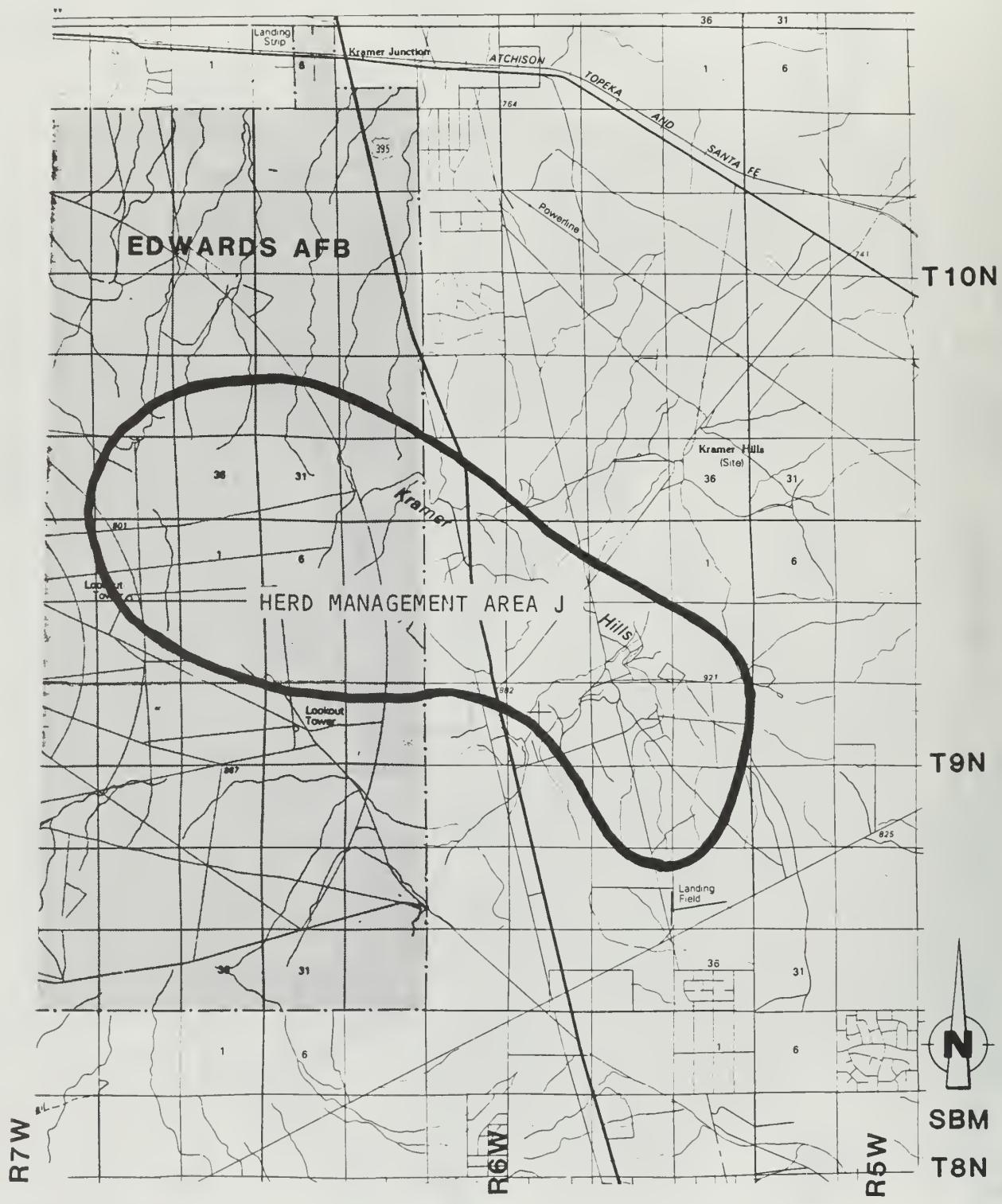
Original ACEC Boundary

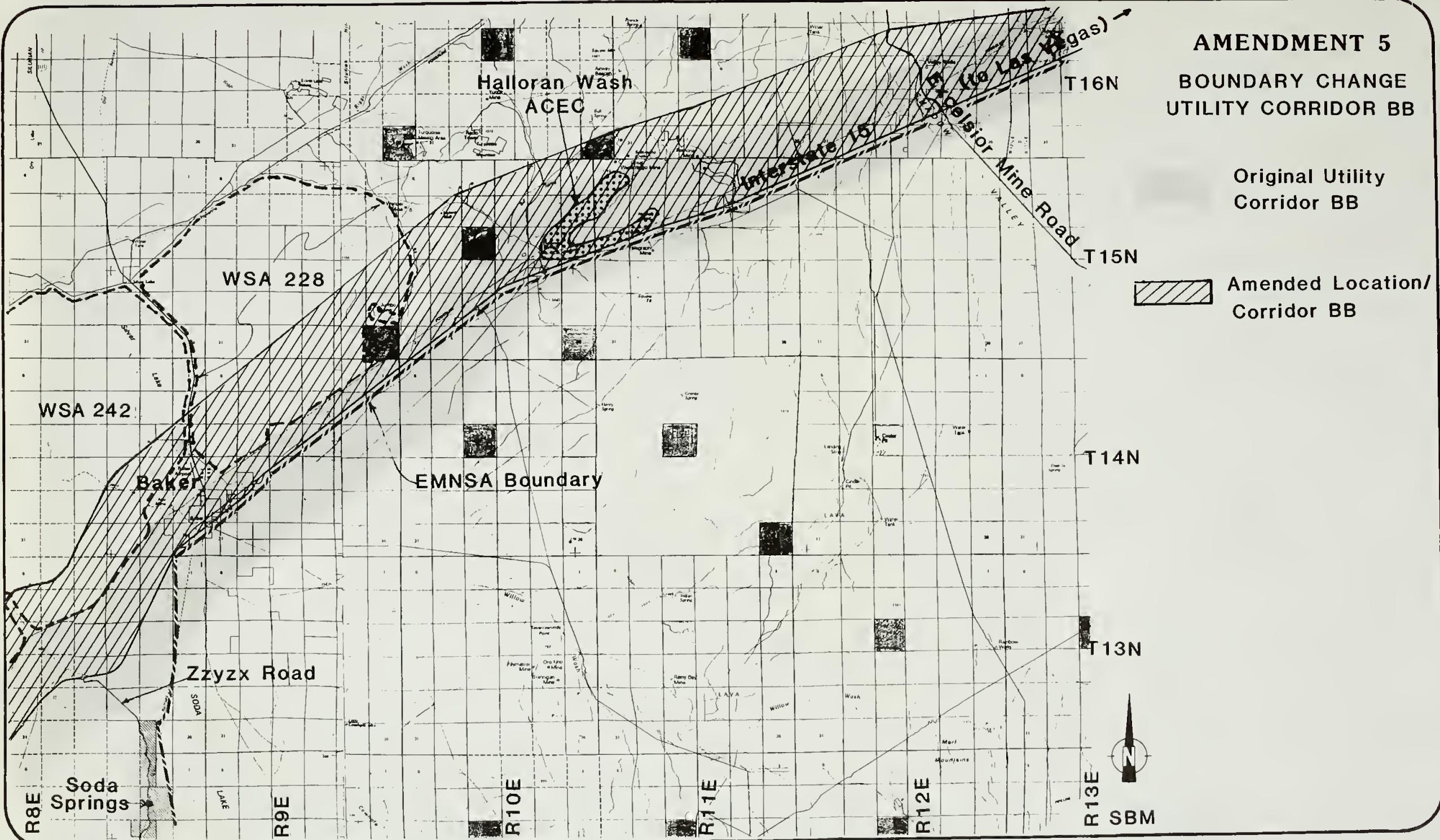
ACEC Addition



ELIMINATE KRAMER
HERD MANAGEMENT AREA
(HMA 'J')

AMENDMENT 4





WSA Boundary

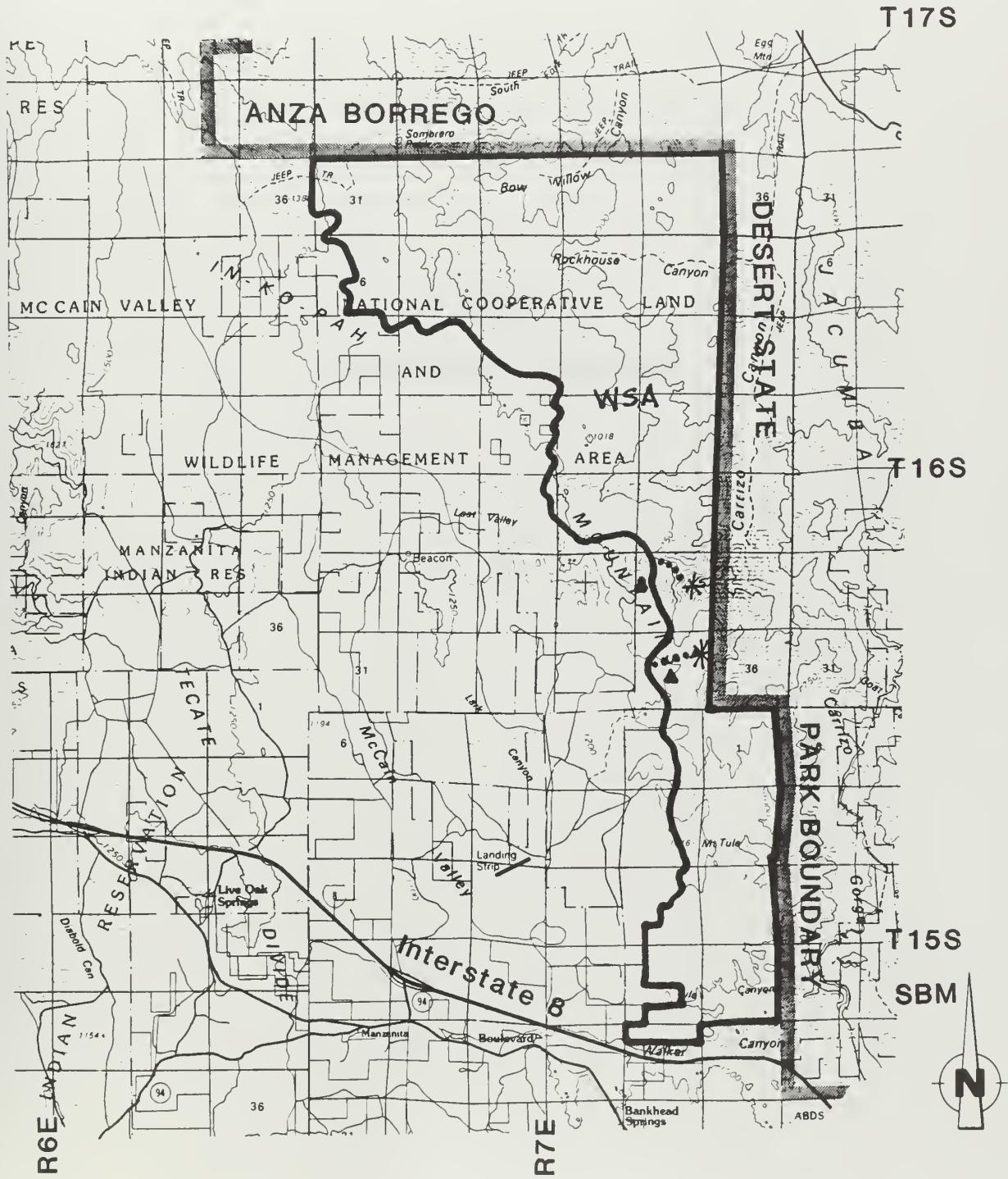
Change from "L" to "C"

Incorrect Overlook Site *

Corrected Overlook Site ▲

AMENDMENT 6

CARRIZO GORGE WSA



APPENDIX B
AMENDMENTS NOT CONSIDERED

TABLE B-1
Amendments Handled Through Administrative Action

Prelim. Amend. No.	Amendment	Proponent's Reason for Submission	Remarks
	MOTORIZED VEHICLE ACCESS		
86-P-4	Add to Map 10 in the Motorized Vehicle Element the following statement: "Lands within military bases are closed to the public for entry by off-road vehicles. This means that all forms of public off-road travel are prohibited within military bases." (Edwards AFB).	Although the Desert Access Guides will note closure of military bases, noting it in the Plan, as well, would reach more members of the public. The intent is to increase public safety.	An amendment is not needed. Closure of military bases will be noted on maps when plan is reprinted.
86-P-6	Make adjustments in the rules and regulations for Long Term Visitor Areas (LTVAs). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Allow only an 8-hour battery charging time, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; - Provide a 100-ft. diameter "closed" area surrounding each campsite (except for the user of the campsite); - Allow no shooting within an LTV or within a one-mile safety zone around the perimeter. (15-signature petition). 	Noise pollution; inconsiderate campers; To avoid dust production by people who drive around campsites producing dust. Protect the public safety.	These stipulations can be changed administratively. There is no need for an amendment.
	AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN (ACECs) AND SPECIAL AREAS		
86-P-14	Prohibit sale of Multiple Use Class "M" lands in the East Mojave National Scenic Area (EMNSA). (Peter Burk).	Federal retention of EMNSA lands is necessary to protect resources.	Do not consider. Recent amendments have addressed reclassification of lands in Lanfair Valley and near Baker (1985) and the ODCA land sales policy (1984). The Recreation Activity Management Plan for the EMNSA is in preparation and will address land tenure adjustment.

TABLE B-2

Amendments Dropped

Prelim. Amend. No.	Amendment	Proponent's Reason for Submission	Remarks
	MOTORIZED VEHICLE ACCESS		
86-P-2	Change the boundary of the "closed" area in North Saline Valley. Change multiple use classification of land excluded from closure from "C" to "L". Designate open all existing routes of travel. (CA Assoc. of 4-WD Clubs)	The existence of routes connecting the Jackass Flats Road (S-13) and Waucoba Wash (S-0716) with the county maintained Whiporwill Canyon Road would suggest that management would be most effective if routes (S-014 and S-0716) were open.	Do not consider. BLM will consider changes in multiple use classification within all suitable WSAs after USGS/BLM mineral data has been analyzed.
86-P-3	Change Motorized Vehicle Access designation in the Randsburg area from "limited" to "closed." (Joyce Cory).	Hillsides are becoming eroded and denuded because of ORV use. New ORV trails have appeared in the hills in the last two years. Soil displacement is causing suffocation of vegetation in area near dunes west of town. Two threatened or endangered plants and the desert tortoise are found in the area.	Previous studies have shown that "limited access" is the most appropriate designation for this area which contains sensitive biological resources but is also popular with miners, prospectors, and ORV users.
	WILDERNESS		
86-P-7	WSA 147 - Move northern boundary south so as to delete an area of high mineral content and many patented and unpatented claims. Change multiple use class from "L" to "I". (Frederic C. Johnson and Charles E. Schroeter).	The northwestern boundary was mistakenly placed north of an area of known mineral resources and patented and unpatented claims. Area does not meet wilderness criteria. Plans of operation and surface reclamation would be required even though the area has not been recommended for wilderness designation.	Do not consider. WSA boundaries cannot be changed. BLM will consider changes in multiple use classification within all suitable WSAs after USGS/BLM mineral data has been analyzed.
86-P-8	WSA 147 - Change multiple use classification of area northwest of Greenwater Canyon from Class "L" to Class "M." (Frederic C. Johnson, American Borate Co.).	Area contains potential precious and base metal resources and an extensive network of pre-1971 roads and active mining claims. Greenwater Canyon is a popular route for off-road vehicle enthusiasts.	Same as above

TABLE B-2
Amendments Dropped

Prelim. Amend. No.	Amendment	Proponent's Reason for Submission	Remarks
	WILDERNESS		
86-P-9	WSA 122 - Change wilderness recommendation from suitable to nonsuitable. (F.C. Johnson, American Borate Co.).	U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 1708-A and a government study show that the Inyo Mtns. are highly mineralized. The area has been explored and mined in the past. There has been a recent resurgence of mining and prospecting in the center of the WSA.	Same as above
86-P-10	WSA 122 - Change multiple use class of highly mineralized areas from "C" to "M". (F. C. Johnson, American Borate Co.).	So that utilization of existing resources will not be hampered by disallowance of access improvement for mining and exploration ventures.	Same as above
86-P-11	WSA 130 - Reclassify this WSA as nonsuitable. (Richard & Myrna Tew).	Resource values, opportunities, and access were inadequately evaluated during the Study Phase of the BLM Wilderness Review Program. The G-E-M is incomplete.	The WSA is presently recommended nonsuitable, Class "M". A change is not necessary.
86-P-12	WSA 373 - Change the recommendation for the Coyote Mountains WSA from nonsuitable to suitable. (BLM, El Centro R.A.).	New information has recently come to light on paleontological and archaeological resources in this WSA which indicates the need for suitability reevaluation. The presence of these resources was unknown to the Desert Plan Staff.	Do not consider. Resources can be protected by other methods.

The change in status would be consistent with current management. The WSA has been closed to vehicle access since 1975 as a result of a Yuha Desert Management Framework Step III decision. The change would also be consistent with the designation and management of the adjacent Carrizo Badlands wilderness within Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.

INDEX

Affected Environment

 Definition: 3-1

 Information Sources: 3-1

Amendments (1986)

 Criteria: 1-1

 Cumulative Impacts: 4-10

 Description: 2-2

 Maps, individual: Appendix A

 Map, regional: 1-2

 Rejected: Appendix B

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern and Special Areas

 Definition: G-1

 Specific ACECs:

 East Mojave National Scenic Area: 2-3, 3-6, 3-7, 4-8, 4-9

 Halloran Wash: 4-7, 4-8

 Saline Valley: S-1, 2-2, 2-4, 3-2, 3-5, 4-4, 4-5

Botany

Astragalus funereus: 4-3

Creosote/Burro Bush Scrub: 3-6

Dedeckera eurekaensis: 4-2

Shadscale Unusual PlantAssemblage: 4-7

Western Mojave Saltbush Scrub: 3-6

Burros: S-1, S-2, 2-2, 3-2, 4-5, 4-6

California Desert District Advisory Council: S-1, 1-1, 5-1

Eastern San Diego County Management Framework Plan (MFP): 3-1, 3-7

Edwards Air Force Base: 3-6, 4-6

Hunter Canyon: 3-5, 4-5

Interim Critical Management Plan, 1974: 2-2, 3-4

Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review:
2-2, 3-4, 4-3, 4-8

Jackass Flat: 3-4

Last Chance Range: 4-1

McCain Valley: 3-7

Motorized Vehicle Access:

 Carrizo Gorge WSA: 3-2, 3-7

 North Saline Valley: S-1, S-2, 2-2, 3-2, 3-4, 4-1, 4-2

 Orocopia Mountains: S-1, S-2, 2-2, 3-2, 3-4, 4-3, 4-4

Shadow Valley: 3-7, 4-7, 4-8

Utility Corridor BB: S-1, S-2, 2-3, 3-2, 3-7

Wilderness Study Areas:

Eastern McCain Valley A ("Carrizo Gorge") (CA-060-025A): 3-2, 3-7

Hollow Hills (CDCA-228): 3-6, 4-8

Orocopia Mountains (CDCA-344): 3-4, 4-3

Saline Valley (CDCA-117): 3-4, 4-2

Soda Mountains (CDCA-242): 3-6, 4-8

Wildlife

Desert Bighorn: 3-5, 4-1, 4-3, 4-4, 4-9

Desert tortoise: 3-6, 3-7, 4-5, 4-6, 4-7, 4-8

Mojave Ground Squirrel: 3-6, 4-5, 4-6

Peninsular bighorn sheep: 3-7

